

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-13, 16, 18-19 and 22 are canceled. Claims 3-4, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 are currently amended. Claims 3-4, 6-7, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects pending claims 1-2, 5, 8-13, 16, 18-19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,629,142 to Badami et al. (“Badami”).

To advance the prosecution, and without accepting the Examiner’s rejection, claims 1-2, 5, 8-13, 16, 18-19 and 22 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims at later time.

Allowed Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner’s statement in the Office Action that claims 6-7 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

In Section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to pending claims 3-4, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all elements of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 3-4, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 to explicitly incorporate elements of the claims from which these claims depend.

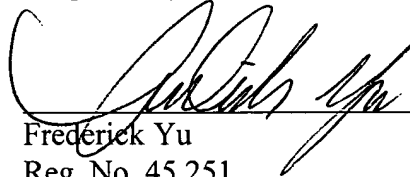
As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-4, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims 3-4, 6-7, 14-15, 17 and 20-21 are allowable, and allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the Applicant's undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

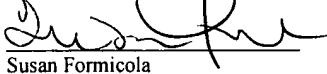
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Respectfully submitted,



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Date